

March 5, 2023

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 6816, AN ACT CONCERNING MICROSTAMPING-ENABLED PISTOLS, RAISING THE AGE TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION AND RESTRICTING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF BODY ARMOR.

I strongly believe that this bill will not have the desired effect of increasing public safety. Investigating the viability of Microstamping-enabled pistols would be a waste of resources. Microstamping-enabled pistols are expensive and not widely available, and the technology is still largely untested. Requiring Microstamping-enabled pistols would drastically increase the production costs of firearms and unfairly impact law abiding gun owners who will have these increased costs passed on to them. Not to mention the fact that empty shell casings are found at every gun range and could be easily picked up by unscrupulous individuals and planted at crime scenes thus incriminating innocent, legal gun owners and waste the time of police investigations as they chase false leads. While well intentioned, Microstamping-enabled pistols will not have the desired effect of reducing crime or facilitating police investigations of crime.

Also, raising the age to purchase ammunition will disproportionately impact younger gun owners who use firearms for activities like hunting, target shooting, and competition. As it now stands in CT, one must have passed a criminal background check and have their fingerprints run through the FBI system to purchase ammunition.

Finally, restricting the sale and possession of body armor will limit the ability of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves should they ever find themselves in unfortunate circumstances where such protection is needed. Law abiding citizens should have the same ability to protect their lives as law enforcement officers and security personnel.

I strongly urge you to reject this bill and focus on legislation that will have a more meaningful and direct impact on public safety. Legal gun owners are not the problem when it comes to crime involving firearms. Please focus on repeat offenders and stop dropping gun charges of individuals who use guns while committing crimes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Robert Messina

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